



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Tuesday, July 17, 2012

MEDIA CONTACT: Jason Bearce

317.464.4400 x. 119

jbearce@che.in.gov

Indiana higher education commissioner to address Congress on reducing college costs, student debt

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Indiana Higher Education Commissioner Teresa Lubbers will testify at a special Congressional hearing at 10 a.m. (EST) on Wednesday, July 18 focused on college affordability. Titled “*Keeping College Within Reach: Exploring State Efforts to Curb Costs*,” the hearing will be convened by the U.S. House of Representatives’ Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training.

Indiana college tuition has increased by nearly 100 percent over the past decade, reflecting a nationwide trend. Hoosier students borrow an average of \$27,000 to finance a college degree, and Indiana’s student loan default rate has increased by 35 percent over the past three years.

“Ultimately, our goal is quite straightforward,” said Lubbers. “We must ensure that more Indiana students complete college on time and at the lowest possible cost.”

Lubbers will highlight Indiana’s recent efforts to rein in college costs and reduce student debt, including performance-based funding, innovative educational-models, accelerated credential-completion, optimization of credit transfer, and transparent means for students and parents to calculate the return on their investments in postsecondary study.

The Commission for Higher Education’s “*Reaching Higher, Achieving More*” strategic plan charts a bold course for increasing college completion, affordability and academic quality in Indiana. The plan and related reforms have garnered top marks nationally, most recently earning Indiana a place among only four states to earn an A grade from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce for its higher education policy environment. Learn more about Indiana’s *Reaching Higher, Achieving More* strategic plan at www.che.in.gov.

WHO: Indiana Higher Education Commissioner Teresa Lubbers
Members of the U.S. House of Representatives

WHAT: Congressional hearing on reducing college costs and student debt

WHEN: 10 a.m. (EST), Wednesday, July 18, 2012

WHERE: 2175 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C.
A live video stream of the hearing will be available online at
<http://edworkforce.house.gov/Calendar/EventSingle.aspx?EventID=302660>